

Senate Bill 39  
January 7, 2009  
Presented by Bob Lane  
Senate Natural Resources Committee

Chairman Gebhardt and committee members, I am Bob Lane, Chief Legal Council of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

Fish, Wildlife and Parks supports the continuation of the work of the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission. The Compact Commission is currently involved in negotiations with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. It is important that these negotiations continue.

The work of the Compact Commission in negotiating the reserved water rights of Montana's sovereign Tribes is an integral and critical part of Montana's adjudication of pre-1973 water rights. Much has been accomplished; yet significant negotiations are still in progress and deserve the continued efforts of the Compact Commission.